



# NEWSLETTER - SPRING 2010

## Memories of Marvin

On February 16, 2010 our friend Marvin passed away. We are thankful for his life and the gifts he brought to our community.

Marvin was born in Manitoba on September 10, 1957 but grew up in Saskatchewan. He was the youngest of nine children.

When he was 18 Marvin was involved in two serious accidents, the second one leaving him with brain damage and paralyzed on one side of his body. After two years in hospital his father took him home to look after him. Six months later Mr. Mazure died and his mother could not cope with her son's needs. His sister Louise, who lived in Vancouver brought her brother back to live with her and her family for a little while and then he went to UBC extended care for seven years until he came to L'Arche March 1, 1984.

*"Marvin was a good friend, a good housemate." - Ken*

*"He was always smiling and happy." - Mary*

Marvin made friends easily. When he had to go back to UBC for medical appointments you could always hear someone say "Hi Marv".

Marvin liked things to be in order. Counters had to be clean, cupboard doors and bedroom doors had to be closed.

*"Marvin loved his coffee." - Alex*

He loved any kind of music but had a preference for classical and easy listening tunes and conducting with his good arm. Always willing to go church; his favorite prayer was the "Our Father" even when asked to say grace before meals. He also loved dancing - this always put a big smile on his face. He loved going for car rides and was a great navigator.

*"He liked songs." - Gwenda*

*"He was the conductor of Messengers." - Guy*



Marvin had a strong work ethic. At the workshop he could pound nails all day long. Until arthritis limited the use of his good arm, he would carry an 8 feet long 2 X 4 over his shoulder. At home he enjoyed chopping veggies, clearing the table, drying dishes, making his bed and other chores.

*"Marvin took great pride in his work." - Lorne*



Marvin loved flowers.

Considering his physical limitations, Marvin did a fair bit of travelling. He flew to Regina with Leonard once to visit his mother. He travelled to Guelph on a retreat with other friends from L'Arche Vancouver.

*"Marvin was a man of the people and he was happy making other people happy." - Jill*

Marvin was so alert, his hearing was perfect, and he was a peaceful man, genuine, sincere and joyful. Friends will remember his smile, his chuckles, his *oh, oh, oh*- his one hand sign language.

*"Marvin was always joking." - Melina*

Two of the many people who helped Marvin grow in his relationships were Richard and Garth. Richard with his tenderness and patience did not let Marvin stay mad very long. Then Garth with this sense of humor and teasing made him laugh, keeping an eye on Marvin to make sure he did not need anything. True friends!

*"Marvin is a nice person. I like him very much." - Delinda*

*"Marvin liked concerts and choirs. He loved to go down to the river. Marvin helped doing the marking at the workshop." - Garth*

In the last years Marvin spent a lot of time in the hospital. His patience with staff who had to poke and probe and prick was remarkable. Only once did we see him role his eyes and hear him sigh in frustration.

*"Marvin is now at peace." - Sue*

*"I feel so blessed that I got to know him." - Katrin*

Before his last stay in the hospital, Marvin had a really good week. He was able to come for one day and attend Community Prayer. He also had a great outing with Kevin to Stanley Park. His last outing was on the hospital sundeck with his hat and sunglasses on and a big contented sigh - surrounded by his friends.

*"Marvin is in heaven now." - Theresa*

## Our Mission is to:

Make known the gifts of people with developmental disabilities, revealed through mutually transforming relationships.

Foster an environment in community that responds to the changing needs of our members, while being faithful to the core values of our founding story.

Engage in our diverse cultures, working together toward a more human society.

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## From Denise's Desk:

In Celebration of our Community.

This newsletter reflects the wide range of joys and sorrows we've lived together at L'Arche recently. Accompanying Marvin in his last few months was a solemn, sacred, and

tender time. The morning after he passed away the whole community gathered in our big living room to share what had happened, tell our stories about Marvin, and sing his favourite songs. The following week we honoured and celebrated his life with a beautiful memorial service. Now we live with the reality of life without him in our community and the face of the community has changed. We miss him dearly, but we know he is singing with the angels in heaven now, which gives us comfort and hope.

Within two weeks of Marvin's passing we hosted the first Art of Being Together – a day of celebration and welcome. It was an honour to exhibit the work of emerging artists

inspired by the theme of community and our need of each other. It was a great joy to meet new friends and have the opportunity to share the message of L'Arche with them. I was particularly proud of our Art Together project that beautifully portrayed the friendships that are formed and the gifts that are discovered at L'Arche.

These two significant events represent the broad spectrum of life in community. Our theme this year is "I have come that you may have life and have it to the full". I am so grateful for these words reminding us of God's faithfulness in the midst of all that life brings.

*Denise Haskett*

Denise Haskett  
Community Leader/ Executive Director

## And The Art of Being Together Winners Are...

On Saturday March 6, 2010 L'Arche Greater Vancouver held its first annual Art of Being Together. This special day-time exhibition brought together the art community, corporate sponsors, respected art judges and the general public in celebration of "togetherness."

Emerging artists from across the Lower Mainland submitted original artwork that was inspired by the theme of the "art of being together." Respected judges Aaron Peck, Alan Wylie and Spike McKinley chose eight Finalists and eight Honourable Mentions for the exhibition.

Over 250 guests attended the event which was held at the National Nikkei Museum & Heritage Centre in Burnaby. Guests voted for their favourite work of art among the finalists, bought pieces of art created by people with and without developmental disabilities, bid on silent auction items, sampled amazing snacks provided by Food Fusions and enjoyed the music provided by emerging musicians.

At the end of the day awards were presented by L'Arche Greater Vancouver. Hosted by Vancouver's own Rebecca Bollwitt (Miss604), we were happy to announce the winners of our juried exhibition. The Judge's Choice Award was "Brothers" by Jessica Morgun and the People's Choice Award was a tie between "Butterfly" by Jenny Jia and "Hands" by Jason Husmillo.

The Art of Being Together raised over \$6,000 for L'Arche Greater Vancouver. This event would not have been possible without the generous contributions of our sponsors, volunteers, guests, artists and community partners. Thank you!

**Judges' Choice Winner** Jessica Morgun (L) and her piece "Brothers" with Lynne E. Boardman (R) of Harvey McKinnon Associates (sponsor). Artist Sponsors chose one piece each from the exhibition to take home with them at the end of the event.



Jason Wong (L) of The Burnaby Board of Trade (sponsor) with **Peoples' Choice Winner** Jason Husmillo (R) and his piece "Hands." Jason tied for the award with **Peoples' Choice Winner** Jenny Jia's "Butterfly" pictured below.



David McCullum (R) of B.E. Digitally Hip Corp. (sponsor) accepting **Finalist** Frank Bennett's (L) piece "Mealtime" during the awards presentation.



## Creating the Community Art Piece

At The Art of Being Together guests, volunteers and community members participated in making two pieces of art together. These collaborative art pieces were guided by local artist Tara Croft Carmichael and also inspired by the theme of togetherness.

At the end of the event one Community Art Piece was donated to South Burnaby Neighbourhood House in recognition of their contribution to the community. The other was presented to one of our sponsors, Community Living B.C.



Antonia Beck (L) of South Burnaby Neighbourhood House accepts the **Community Art Piece** from Deirdre Lane (R) President of the L'Arche Foundation of Greater Vancouver.



Rod Gunn (L) of Community Living B.C. (sponsor) accepts the **Community Art Piece** from Trudi Shaw (R) President of L'Arche Greater Vancouver.



Artist Tara Croft Carmichael guiding the creation of the **Community Art Pieces**.

## Art Together Project

The Art Together Gallery featured art by L'Arche artists with and without developmental disabilities. It was an opportunity for artists of all abilities to collaborate on pieces intended for display at the event. What evolved was a meaningful project that showcased the gifts of the L'Arche community. Thirty artists participated creating 13 vibrant original pieces of art.

Vera Jack (L) and Jennifer Yeager (R) of Steelhead Business Products Ltd. (lead sponsor) accepting **Art Together Project** piece "The City" by Mary and Judy.



Tracy Keenan of the Burnaby NewsLeader (sponsor) (L) accepts **Art Together Project** piece "We're All in the Same Boat" by Patrick, Jane, Enid, Judea and Wilma (not pictured).



Edi Soehardhi (R) of VanCity (sponsor) accepts **Art Together Project** piece "The Unity of Community" by Yurim, Ilonka and Betty (L to R).

### A Special Thank You To Our Sponsors:

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### And Silent Auction Donors:

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- The City of Burnaby, Mayor's Office
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- Deirdre Lane
- Lorne McDonald
- Metropolis at Metrotown
- Netzwerk Music Group
- David Osborne
- Pacific National Exhibition
- Lauraine Russell
- David and Trudi Shaw
- Simba's Grill
- Tas Antonopoulos
- Ten Thousand Villages
- Dorothy van der Zalm
- Vancouver Canadians Baseball



### Tribute Giving

L'Arche Greater Vancouver gratefully acknowledges the gifts made in celebration of the following individuals:

- |                   |                                 |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| Bob Baird         | Derek Lundy and Christine Mauro |
| Marilyn Joy Iwama | Sandra Patrick                  |

### Over \$6,500 Raised for L'Arche Haiti

In the weeks following the devastation in Haiti, our L'Arche community collected donations of \$1,714 for the L'Arche communities in Haiti. The L'Arche Foundation of Greater Vancouver matched funds, which were matched yet again by the Federal Government increasing the original amount to \$6,856.

There are two L'Arche communities in Haiti. The largest is in Port au Prince where fifteen people with disabilities, a number of whom had been abandoned, live in the community. Another fifteen come from their families to L'Arche each day. Another 20 people with disabilities have made the second L'Arche community in Chantal, their home. This community is in the process of building a woodworking shop and a new program that will combine banana harvesting with a composting project.

Today our people in Haiti are struggling along with everyone else. Two members of the Board of Directors were killed in the earthquake. Although everyone else is safe there has been substantial material damage. Early reports suggest that ten of eleven buildings have to be replaced.

Along with the funds that were sent in late February, we continue to support our sister communities in Haiti through prayer. For more information about L'Arche Haiti please visit [www.larche.ca](http://www.larche.ca)



### Upcoming Events

#### Ark Builders' Brunch

Saturday June 26, 2010  
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
7401 Sussex Ave. Burnaby, BC  
By Invitation

#### A L'Arche Christmas Concert

Featuring Corpus Christi College Chamber Choir  
December 2010

St. Margaret's Cedar Cottage Anglican Church  
Free admission and donation opportunity

#### The Second Annual Art of Being Together

Saturday March 5, 2011  
National Nikkei Museum & Heritage Centre  
Admission by donation - \$5 Minimum

### Ways to Support L'Arche

**Sponsor a Special Event.** There are several opportunities a year for individual and corporate sponsorship. Market your product or service through a partnership with L'Arche.

**Invite a L'Arche Speaker** to come to your community, church or school group. We have a growing speaker's bureau that is eager to share the message of L'Arche.

**Give through Payroll Deduction.** Designate your United Way donation to L'Arche Greater Vancouver.

Contact us at **604-435-9544** for more information.

We invite you to share your copy of this newsletter.

Give online: [www.larchevancouver.org](http://www.larchevancouver.org) and click "Donate"

**CONTACT:**

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- I would like to become an Ark Builder
- I would like to receive information about donating securities or leaving a gift in my will
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